

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An adjustable clip assembly, comprising:

first and second, opposing jaw portions, said jaw portions having first ends that are joined together and second ends that are spread apart so as to define a receiving area said jaw portions having first and second contoured surfaces for engaging sheet material of a tarp positioned within said receiving area, said contoured surfaces comprising:

a plurality of transverse interfitting, non-interlocking ridges formed on said first and second jaw portions, said interfitting ridges having rounded contours so as to avoid damaging said sheet material of said tarp; and

a finger-operable adjustment screw interconnecting said first and second jaw portions, for adjustably urging said jaw portions into gripping engagement with an article positioned within said receiving area.

Claim 2 (original): The adjustable clip assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

means for resiliently biasing said jaw portions apart on opposite sides of said receiving area, so that said jaw portions spread apart in response to loosening of said adjustment screw.

Claim 3 (original): The adjustable clip assembly of claim 2, wherein said means for resiliently biasing said jaw portions apart comprises:

a live hinge connecting said first ends of said jaw portions at a common base.

Claim 4 (original): The adjustable clip assembly of claim 3, wherein said jaw portions and said live hinge are formed as a unitarily molded structure.

Claim 5 (original): The adjustable clip assembly of claim 2, wherein said adjustment screw comprises:

a threaded shaft spanning said first and second jaw portions at a location intermediate said first and second ends thereof.

Claim 6 (original): The adjustable clip assembly of claim 5, wherein said threaded shaft is received in a threaded bore in at least one of said jaw portions, so that said threaded shaft draws said jaw portions together in response to rotation of said shaft.

Claim 7 (original): The adjustable clip assembly of claim 6, wherein said adjustment screw further comprises:

a knob member mounted on an end of said threaded shaft for manual rotation thereof.

Claim 8 (original): The adjustable clip assembly of claim 5, wherein said threaded shaft comprises:

a first end which is mounted to said first jaw portion and a second, threaded end which extends through an opening in said second jaw portion so as to protrude outwardly therefrom;

said protruding end of said shaft being received in threaded engagement with a rotatable member, so that said rotatable member urges said second jaw portion towards said first jaw portion in response to rotation of said rotatable member thereon.

Claim 9 (original): The clip assembly of claim 8, wherein said rotatable member comprises an internally threaded knob.

Claims 10-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (previously amended): The clip assembly of claim 1, wherein said contoured surfaces further comprise:

surface texturing formed on at least one of said ridges for gripping said sheet material of a tarp.

Claim 16 (original): The clip assembly of claim 15, wherein said surface texturing comprises:  
a multiplicity of small, raised protrusions forming a grainy surface for engaging said sheet material of a tarp.

Claim 17 (original): The clip assembly of claim 2, further comprising:  
an attachment portion extending from said joined ends of said jaw portions for attachment of a cord thereto.

Claim 18 (original): The clip assembly of claim 17, wherein said attachment portion comprises:  
a through opening for passage of said cord therethrough.

Claim 19 (original): The clip assembly of claim 17, wherein said attachment portion comprises:  
a hook opening for receiving said cord therein.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): first and second, opposing jaw portions, said jaw portions having first ends that are joined together and second ends that are spread apart so as to define a receiving area, said jaw portions having first and second contoured surfaces for engaging sheet material of a tarp positioned within said receiving area, said contoured surfaces comprising:

a plurality of transverse, inter-fitting ridges formed on said first and second jaw portions, surface texturing being formed on at least one of said ridges for gripping said sheet material of a tarp in said surface texturing comprising:

a multiplicity of small, raised protrusions forming a grainy surface for engaging said sheet material of a tarp; and

a finger-operable adjustment screw interconnecting said first and second jaw portions, for adjustably urging said jaw portions into gripping engagement with an article positioned within said receiving area.

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended): An adjustable clip assembly, comprising:

first and second jaw portions, said jaw portions having first ends that are joined together and second ends that are spread apart so as to define a receiving area;

a live hinge connecting said first ends of said jaw portions at a common base, said jaw portions and said live hinge being formed as a unitarily molded structure of a ~~substantially rigid~~, resiliently flexible material ;

first and second, raised engagement surfaces formed on said second ends of said jaw portions on opposite sides of said receiving area;

a finger-operable adjustment screw interconnecting said first and second jaw portions at mid-areas intermediate said engagement surfaces and said live hinge, for adjustably urging said engagement surfaces on said jaw portions into gripping engagement with an article positioned within said receiving area; and

at least one stop member positioned between said jaw portions ~~proximate said adjustment screw~~ so as to prevent said mid-areas of said jaw portions from collapsing towards one another beyond a predetermined minimum spacing as said adjustment screw is tightened, said stop member comprising:

a raised projection formed on said shaft portion of said screw for bearing against an inner surface of said mid-area of at least one of said jaw portions so as to limit movement of said jaw portion as said adjustment screw is tightened.

Claim 24 (canceled)